

Marked-up version of amended claims:

1. A [vessel for withdrawing] blood withdrawing vessel containing a[n] nucleic acid-stabilizing aqueous solution for stabilizing nucleic acids in the withdrawn blood directly upon contact with the solution, the solution comprising the following components:

- a guanidinium salt in a concentration of 1 to 8.0 M;
- a buffer substance in a concentration of 10 to 300 mM;
- a reducing agent in a concentration of 5 to 30%, by wt;
and
- a detergent in a concentration of 0.1 to 10%, by wt.

3. The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the guanidinium salt is present [at] in a concentration of [1 to 8.0 M, preferably] 2.5 to 8.0 M.

10. The vessel according to claim 1, characterized in that the pH of the solution is between 4.0 and 7.5 [preferably between 4.0 and 6.5].

14. A method of withdrawing blood, comprising the step[s] of directly introducing the blood into a vessel according to claim 1.

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16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the [final] concentration of the guanidinium salt after the blood [supply] is introduced is between 1.0 M and 5 M[, preferably 1.5 and 5 M].

18. The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the pH of the solution is adjusted such that, following the [addition] introduction of the [sample material] blood, a pH between 4.0 and 7.5 is obtained.

22. The blood sample according to claim 24, characterized in that it has a pH of 4.0 to 7.5[, preferably 6.6 to 7.0].

24. A stabilized blood sample containing a [guanidinium salt and a reducing agent and/or a detergent and/or a buffer substance] reaction product of blood and the aqueous solution of claim 1.